



## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 28, 2003 For Information Contact Public Affairs HARRIET BERNICK

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## ARYAN BROTHERHOOD MEMBER SENTENCED TO 17.5 YEARS IN PRISON FOR GUN POSSESSION

PHOENIX, ARIZONA – Paul K. Charlton, U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona, and Virginia O'Brien, Special Agent in Charge for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, announced that on August 27, 2003, Mark Louis Sandon was sentenced to 210 months in prison by United States District Judge Roger G. Strand, in Phoenix, Arizona. Sandon, born November 5, 1954, of Phoenix, Arizona, was found guilty of the federal crime Felon in Possession of a Firearm, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g)(1), by a federal jury at Phoenix, Arizona on March 21, 2003. This was Sandon's 11<sup>th</sup> felony conviction.

This prosecution is the most recent success for the District of Arizona's Project Safe Neighborhood's firearms enforcement program, a unified offensive among federal, state, and local law enforcement that is led by United States Attorney Paul K. Charlton. The ultimate goal of Project Safe Neighborhoods is to create safer neighborhoods by reducing gun violence.

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The investigation was conducted by Special Agents Athanasio ("Tom") Vlahoulis and Jose Wall of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

The prosecution was handled by Mary Beth Phillips, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-02-1224-PHX-RGS

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